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USSR

Ref. No: S/NBF/T160 (of 12/2/1952)

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RE-ISSUE

PROPOSED USE OF MIKHAJLOV's TELEPHONE (1945)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No: 26

8 Jan. 45

To VIKTOR. [i]

At the PLANT [ZAVOD][ii] works a secret informer [SO][a] of the sixth line, MIKHAJLOV[iii]. To enable ABLERT[iv] to get in touch with us quickly in cases of emergency we propose to give him MIKHAJLOV's telephone number. This proposal VADIM[v] considers unacceptable - he maintains that if a call is made on this number even from the ARSENAL[vi] the KHATA[vii] is allegedly in a position to establish there and then who is making the call. If VADIM is mistaken I would ask all the same[b] for permission to use this telephone number on the following considerations:

1. MIKHAJLOV is rarely absent and on Sundays more often than not stays at home[,], consequently it is easy to get him on the same telephone number at any time.
2. The nature of MIKHAJLOV's PLANT work is such that he can be rung up on many plausible pretexts.
3. MIKHAJLOV is very careful and conscientious.
4. To give ABLERT our worker's home telephone number is disadvantageous for understandable reasons.

Distribution

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5. ALBERT will need to make use of MIKHAJLOV's telephone number only in an extreme emergency.

Telegraph your decision.

No. 21  
8 January

MAY [MAJ][viii]

Notes:[a] SO: SEKRETNIJ OSVEDOMITEL'.

- [b] The reasoning of this sentence is not very clear. This may be due to an undetected garble or to some omission.

Comments: [i] VIKTOR : Lt. Gen. P.M. FITIN.

[ii] PLANT : The Soviet Consulate-General in NEW YORK.

[iii] MIKHAJLOV: Unidentified. Presumably not a cover-name.

[iv] ALBERT : Unidentified.

[v] VADIM : Anatolij Borisovich GROMOV, 1st Secretary at the Soviet Embassy in WASHINGTON.

[vi] ARSENAL : The U.S. Department of War.

[vii] KHATA : The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[viii] MAJ : Probably Stepan Zakharovich APRESYAN, Soviet Vice-Consul in NEW YORK until March 1945.

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